



H.R. 1660 - To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region

Floor Situation

H.R. 1660, as amended, is being considered on the floor by suspending the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative John Salazar (D-CO) on March 22, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported, amended, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, by voice vote, on May 15, 2007.

H.R. 1660, as amended, is expected to be considered on May 23, 2007.

**Note: Representative Doug Lamborn (R-CO) introduced similar legislation, H.R. 295, on January 5, 2007.*

Summary

H.R. 1660, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery in the southern Colorado region to serve the needs of veterans and their families. The bill directs the Secretary to construct the national cemetery in El Paso County, Colorado.

The construction of the new cemetery cannot interfere with the Veterans' Affairs five year strategic construction and capital plan for fiscal year 2008.

Background

Currently, there are 2 national cemeteries that serve the State of Colorado, which are in Denver, Colorado, and Las Limas, Colorado. The area in Colorado with the highest population density of veterans, Colorado Springs, lies near the edge of the areas these two cemeteries serve.

Cost

"CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$3 million in 2008 and \$24 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts." *Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate*

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